New Trains for Andhra Pradesh

917. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals of South Central Railways to start new trains in Andhra Pradesh in 1996-97;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is large waiting list for all trains starting from Secunderabad; and

(c) how Government propose to meet such a demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Provision of additional travel facilities including introduction of new trains, is a continuous process on Indian Railways subject to the avaiability of resources, operational feasibility and traffic justification.

During 1996-97, additional express train services introduced on South Central Railway and serving Andhra Pradesh include:—

1. 2633/2634 Nizamuddin-Madras Rajdhani Express (weekly) via Vijayawada.

2. 9767/9768 Madras-Jaipur Express (weekly) via Vijayawada.

Besides these, MEMU services on. Vijayawada-Guntur-Tenali-Ongole section and DMU services on Vijayawada-Machilipatnam and Guntur-Repalle sections introduced duriang 1996-97 have also contributed to improved commuter services in these areas of Andhra Pradesh on South Central Railway.

(b) The average waiting list of all trains, originating from Secunderabad, for upper class is 6 and for sleeper class is 60.

(c) This is being cleared by attaching extra coaches, subject to the availability of coaches and room by the trains concerned.

Special Dispensation Admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas

918. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of HUM AN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that he had decided on the 13th September, 1996 that special dispensation admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas should continue to the tune of 10 per cent of regular admissions in the preceding year;

(b) if so, whether Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has not honoured his decision; and

(c) if so, whether Kendriya Vidyalayas are competent therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) It was decided on 13.9.96 that an affidavit be filed in the High Court of Delhi by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan that rules will be formulated as per Prime Minister's directive, for regulating special dispensation admissions. An affidavit has been filed in the Court accordingly.

Japanese Assistance for Afforestation in Gujarat

919. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that assistance has been provided by Japan for afforestation project in Gujarat in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government is also sharing the cost of the project alongwith Japan; and

(d) how much afforestation is likely to be achieved under the project and by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Comprehensive forestry project is under implementation in Gujarat with assistance provided as soft loan from the Government of Japan through the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, (OECF). The total cost of the project is Rs. 608.5 crores and about 85 percent of this estimated project cost will be eligible for reimbursement. The project aims at improvement of productivity of forests, wildlife habitat and generating additional income for rural and tribal populations. It is a people oriented project and encourages

people's participation in all aspects of the project. The total duration of the project is six years starting 1995-96.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It is proposed to afforest 2,30,795 hectares inclusive of 1,57,295 hectares of forest area and 73,500 hectares of non-forest area during the project period. The project would be completed by 2000-2001.

Auction of Letters of Gandhiji

920. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an attempt to auction some letters of Gandhiji; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It came to the notice of the Government that Shri V. Kalyanam, a stenographer of Mahatma Gandhi during the period 1944-48, was trying to put to auction certain papers/ letters writte by Mahatma Gandhi, through Phillips International Auctioneers & Vendors, London. Contact was accordingly made with Shri Kalyanam, Indian High Commission in London and Navajivan Trust, Ahmedabad to devise and undertake steps to prevent the auction.

A suit was filed by the Navajivan Trust in the High Court of Judicature at Madras seeking injunction against the auction of Mahatma Gandhi papers. The High Court issued interim injunction restraining the respondents/ defendants or any one claiming or acting under them from in any manner dealing with or parting with the possession of Gandhiji's papers pending the disposal of the suit. The Court like-wise gave an interim injunction against infringement of the Copyrights of Navajivan Trust.

Takitjg note of the claim of Navajivan Trust on the papers, the Auctioneers decided to call off the auction which was due to be held on 14th November, 1996.

High rate of Women Illiteracy

921. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the rates of women illiteracy, State-wise at the end of each of the last three census;

(b) the reasons for high rate of illiteracy among women, especially in States like Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether it is a fact that high rate of female illiteracy leads to higher birth rate; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the female literacy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) A statement is enclosed. *(See* below)

(b) Historically, a variety of factors have been found ot be responsible for poor female literacy rate. Low enrolment of girls in schools, low retention rate and high drop out rate along with several other socio-economic reasons are responsible for poor female literacy rate in these areas.

(c) It has generally been noticed that the States with High rate of female illiteracy have also high birth rate.

(d) The Scheme of Universalisation of Elementary Education, Non-Formal Education for School Drop-outs, Total Literacy Campaigns of the National Literacy Mission form the the three pronged strategy for increasing female literacy in the country.

Statement

Rate of Women Illiteracy

India/State or Union Territory		Illiteracy Rate 1971	1981	1991
States				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	84.25	79.61	67.28
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	96.29	88.68	70.31
3.	Assam	80.73	*	56.97
4.	Bihar	91.28	86.38	77.11